

House Energy and Technology Committee  
Testimony of Peter J. Mastic  
May 31, 2006

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to the House Energy and Technology Committee regarding SB 803.

I am Co-Founder of Noble Environmental Power, LLC, a wind energy firm that is constructing the \$75 MM first phase of a wind project in the Thumb region of Michigan. I also am President of the Organizing Board of the Michigan Sustainable Energy Coalition, an association of renewable energy, environmental and other organizations advocating for renewable energy in Michigan.

I view SB 803 as a narrow, technical amendment that would specify the treatment of wind energy equipment in Michigan as personal property. I think this is right for the State of Michigan for several reasons:

- (1) SB 803 would help encourage the more than one dozen wind projects comprising more than 1,000 MW and \$1.5 billion that are now under development throughout the State of Michigan;
- (2) SB 803 would allow the Thumb project and future projects to be treated in the same manner as the existing Mackinaw City wind project;
- (3) SB 803 would allow the State Tax Commission to distinguish wind energy equipment from cable and TV towers, which are now classified as real property.

On that last point and unlike cable and TV towers, wind turbines are affixed to the land and foundation using anchor bolts, and are removed and moved as conditions warrant. And unlike cable and TV towers that have few moving parts, the gearbox, control system and the essential parts of wind energy equipment are located inside the tower and in the nacelle that sits on top of the tower (see picture).

Thank you.

